

# LONGOBARDI LEADS TALKS

As Vice President of the State board, Jim Longobardi, DPM, MBA is right in the center of things. Chairing the Board of Podiatric Medicine (BPM) Licensing and Medical Education Committee, the VP also oversees and presents BPM's financial health at each public meeting.

In LA City Hall July 20, Jim (see photo, with colleagues and guests) had good news on the licensing front. There are 108 podiatric residents currently training in California--all in three-year programs. And the current number of licensees—1,945—is the highest since 1994.



That's great because BPM is financially challenged. The renewal fee--\$900 since 1999—is 90% of BPM's revenue. Rising costs—largely assessments from other agencies (the Department, Medical Board, AG, and others)—have exceeded revenue since 2007 and threaten the eroding fund balance with insolvency.

Reduction below the current program would not be BPM as we know it, and no one is quite ready for full absorption into the Medical Board. A renewal fee increase of up to \$990 next year is less than the Department's Budget Office projects necessary long term, but with continued frugality should keep BPM in the black through this decade.

The Board voted unanimously July 20 to pursue that course. Recognizing the impact of its rising assessments, the Department of Consumer Affairs committed itself earlier this year to getting a fee bill enacted in 2013. Jim Longobardi with Jim Rathlesberger of the staff will be BPM's point persons in talks with Legislative leaders this fall seeking the support we need in the Capitol.

High standards    ⚙   Continuing Competence    ⚙   Reducing medical errors    ⚙   Preventing patient harm

California Board of Podiatric Medicine  
2005 Evergreen Street, Suite 1300  
Sacramento, CA 95815  
[www.bpm.ca.gov](http://www.bpm.ca.gov)  
916-263-2647